

What's Changed at Church?

Steve Clifford
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**YOU GOTTA
READ
THIS!**
PASSAGES THAT PUMP ME UP

How does this underscore the importance of reaching out?

As you pray today. Ask God to open your eyes to the "harvest" around you. Pray for courage to share the new life you've found in Jesus. Pray that your life will be a true reflection of your faith.

Friday

Please read Matthew 25:16-46. List the six actions Jesus talks about here that were done by the "sheep":

When have you been hungry, thirsty, a stranger, in need of clothes, sick or imprisoned and someone reached out to you?

How have you reached out to people in those conditions?

Why is it important to Jesus that we combine this kind of action with our verbal witness and not just have a verbal witness alone?

Thank God today for those who have come along side you to help you in the past. Pray that your eyes will be open and your heart will be willing to reach out to those in need who you will encounter today. Pray that your actions will point people to Jesus.

Saturday

Please read Luke 10:2-3. As you pray today talk to God about being one of His "workers", ready to do whatever it takes to prepare for and work the harvest.

How does it help you to know that God promises to be with you as you go to the harvest?

Please pray for the services this weekend. Pray that God will be honored. Please pray for Mark Spurlock as he preaches and Justin Fox as he leads worship. Pray that all we do this weekend will point people to Jesus.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." *Acts 1:8 (NIV)*

Requisite variety

"The survival of any living system depends on its capacity to cultivate (not just tolerate) adaptability and diversity in its internal structure." *Pascale, Millemann and Gioja: "Surfing the Edge of Chaos"*

What's Changed at Church?

- **Church must BE missional, not just have missions**

Crystal Clear on Making Disciples

The mission is to call people and to model for them what it means to be like Jesus. Loving God, others, and our neighbors in radical Christ-like ways.

- **Money is NOT the primary answer**

The primary answer is who we are:

1. White hot faith
2. Commitment to the cause.
3. Contagious Relationships
4. Rapid Mobilization
5. Dynamic Methods

"The ship is safest when it is in port. But that's not what ships were made for." *Paulo Coelho*

- **We are all missionaries!**

Begin to view ourselves, not as consumers, but as givers/goers.

Incarnational Ministry includes:

- Presence
- Proximity
- Powerlessness
- Proclamation

These were Jesus' instructions to them: "The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields. Now go, and remember that I am sending you out as lambs among wolves." *Luke 10:2-3 (NLT)*

"We can only live changes: we cannot think our way to humanity. Every one of us, every group, must become the model of that which we desire to create." *Ivan Illich*

Application Today

- **The Kingdom is the Model**

We are all connected and must have abundance thinking (vs. scarcity thinking) 123 times in gospels!

- **The Cross is the Means**

Our message can be explained in two words that every Christian should understand: substitutionary atonement!

- **The Commission is the Method (mission)**

Go! And make Disciples!

- **The Coming is the Motive**

Saved by grace that is free but not cheap. Jesus will come again and we will all have to give an account for how we lived and how we stewarded the resources and opportunities He has given us.

Hyperbolic Growth

- Each Christian commits to bring 2 people to faith in Jesus in their lifetime.
- Each church commits to start 2 churches that are empowered to start 2 as well.

Consider the story of the inventor of the chess game. As a reward for his invention he was offered one free wish as his reward by the king of India. He asked for one kernel on the first square of the chess board to be doubled for every section of the chess board — 64 sections in all. The king initially smiled but the end result was that he would have to give him 2 to the 63rd (9,223,372,036,854,775,808) kernels of rice... or over 284 billion tons of rice — more rice than the world can harvest in 500 years!

Daily Meditations

Take a few minutes every day to read Scripture, pray, and answer some thought-provoking questions pertaining to this week's topic.

Monday

What stood out to you in last weekend's sermon and why?

Please read Acts 1:1-11. What does it mean to be a "witness"? How does that relate to your faith and sharing your faith?

In verse 8, Jesus specifies three areas the disciples will reach: Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and the ends of the earth. What are the equivalent of those in your life?

Jerusalem:

Judea and Samaria:

The ends of the earth:

continued 

How can you be a witness in these three areas?

Thank God today that He has included you on His team! Ask Him to build in you a healthy biblical sense of mission and a desire to share your faith.

Tuesday

Please read 1 Peter 3:15-16. How does Peter say we should answer those who ask about our faith? Why is this important?

Is it easy or difficult for you to be respectful and gentle when you share your faith? Why?

Think about the last time you struggled to share your faith respectfully and gently. Take a moment to re-write that conversation aiming to be gentle and respectful.

Thank God today for the hope He has given you. Pray that your conversations will be full of grace, joy and respect. Pray that God will continually give you opportunities to share your faith.

Wednesday

Please read Philemon 1:4-7. I'm intrigued by verse 6! What does Paul pray that Philemon will do?

Why does he hope Philemon will do this?

What does this teach you about the effect of sharing your faith with others — on your own faith?

How has this been the case in your own life?

Ask God to open your eyes to opportunities to be a "missionary" locally and globally.

Thursday

Please read Romans 10:9-15. What was the purpose of Paul's series of questions in verses 14-17?



Memory Verse

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8 (NIV)

over 